

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

14-217

Orleans

EAS.1268

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Eastham Center

Photograph



Address: 100 Crosby Village Road

Historic Name: Jennie and Forester Crosby House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1924

Source: Eastham Tax Commitment Books

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Cottage, garage (2018), shed (Photos 4, 5)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None on file

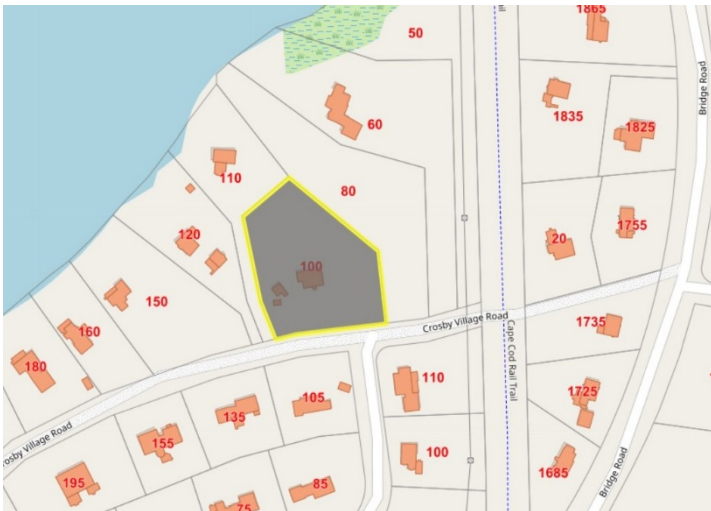
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.95 acres

Setting: Crosby Village Road is a narrow dirt track extending off Bridge Road. This parcel is located on the east side of Herring Pond. The house is centered on its lot and surrounded by lawn, with mature trees around the perimeter.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

100 CROSBY VILLAGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.1268

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Jennie and Forester Crosby House, built in ca. 1924, is a one-story cottage with a complicated roof form. The cottage may have begun as the one-story side gable block with the hip-roofed ell on the west side. There is also a pair of gable-roofed rear ells with a low shed roof in between on the rear elevation that may be a later addition (Photo 3). The elevations are clad in wood shingles, except the rear elevation which is clad in synthetic clapboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Narrow brick chimneys rise from the west ell and rear shed roof. Fenestration appears to now consist of modern, replacement 1/1 double-hung sash and a large picture window on the pond-facing elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This property and the adjacent parcel at 110 Crosby Village Road (EAS.1269) are owned jointly and have the same title history. These two parcels were part of a 4-acre parcel that was sold in 1891 by Mary Higgins of Eastham, wife of Snow Higgins and formerly widow of Charles H. Smith. The parcel was described as bounded on the north by land of William H. Nickerson, on the east by land of the Cape Cod Railroad Co., on the south by land of Austin E. Cole, and on the west by Coles Herring Pond (now Herring Pond). The land was sold to Jennie E. Crosby, wife of Forester J. Crosby, and formerly widow of Henry D. Smith.¹

Jennie E. Clark (1875-1936) was born in Eastham to farmer John A. and Tamson (Gill) Clark. Jennie Clark first married Henry D. Smith in Eastham in 1895. After his death in 1898, she married Nova Scotia-born Forester John Crosby in 1901. William H. Nickerson, whose land abutted this parcel to the north, was married to Jennie's sister, Tamson A. (Clark) Nickerson.

Forester Crosby was a shell fisherman (1910 census) and then coast guard surfman (1920, 1930 census). Both properties have remained in the Crosby family. Following Jennie Crosby's death, they were conveyed to her son, Alton C. Crosby in 1945. He worked as a shell fisherman (1930 census), special police (1940 census) and house carpenter (1950 census). In 1988, Alton and his wife, Harriet, conveyed the properties jointly to themselves and their daughter, Pamela (Crosby) Ryder of Morrisville, VT, and the properties were conveyed outright to Pamela Ryder in 1990.²

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 254/Page 18.

² Book 6331/ Page 60, Book 7106/ Page 146.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

100 CROSBY VILLAGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.1268

The question remains when each of the cottages was built. The cottage on the pond at 110 Crosby Village Road has an Assessor date of 1924, and this house at 100 Crosby Village Road has an Assessor date of 1938. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) conducted a series of aerial photographic surveys between 1938 and 2020. The 1938 USGS photo survey appears to show one cottage set back from the pond in the location of this cottage at 100 Crosby Village Road (Photo 2). According to the Eastham Tax Commitment Books, Jennie Crosby was listed owning a house as of 1924, so perhaps the Assessor date of 1924 for 110 Crosby Village Road is actually accurate for 100 Crosby Village Road. The cottage at the pond edge is first present on the 1971 survey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1910 Map, *Atlas of Barnstable County*, Boston, MA: Walker Litho. & Publishing Co., 1910.

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds, Land Court Records, and Subdivision Maps.

Barnstable Patriot Archives. Sturgis Library Digital Newspaper Archive,
<https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/APA/Sturgis/#panel=home>.

Dunham's 1929 Eastham (Mass.) Street Directory.

Lowe, Alice Albert. *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*. Falmouth, MA: Eastham Historical Society, 1968.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham." Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.

Trayser, Donald G. *Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651-1951: Eastham's Three Centuries*. Lexington, MA: Hancock Press for Eastham Tercentenary Committee, 1951.

Town of Eastham Tax Commitment Books. 1902-57.

United States Geological Survey. Aerial Survey 1938-2020,

<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-cod-chronology-viewer/>.

Wilding, Don. *A Brief History of Eastham*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2017.

www.ancestry.com - Vital records.

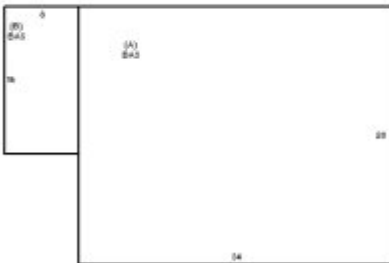


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. 1938 USGS aerial photo (arrow added).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

100 CROSBY VILLAGE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	EAS.1268



Photo 3. View looking north.



Photo 4. View of second cottage and shed, looking south.



Photo 5. View of garage and cottages, looking southeast.